



Local Control

Students Come First empowers local school boards, districts, and parents.

First, the Students Come First proposal empowers local school boards – the people elected to make decisions about education in each local community. The plan gives local school boards more flexibility to manage the local workforce by phasing out tenure and eliminating seniority. The plan gives local school boards the authority to make decisions about school calendars, bell schedules, employee evaluations and other district-level matters by limiting collective bargaining and addressing the evergreen clause in master agreements.

Local school boards will have local control over the mobile computing devices. Districts will decide how to best utilize technology. Districts will decide if the computing devices are only used during the school day, or can be checked out to be taken home. Local school boards will decide what constitutes a hard-to-fill or leadership position when it comes to pay-for-performance. They will set local student achievement or academic growth goals for group-based bonuses. To meet the online credit requirement, local school boards will decide which courses are delivered online and how those courses will be delivered. Districts will also develop alternate routes for students that are not successful in an online class.

Students Come First also empowers parents -- those who know what's best for their students, the true customers of education. The plan allows parents to play a more active and involved role in their child's education. The plan ensures parents have a voice in teacher performance evaluations, access to district financial and academic achievement data, and can attend meetings while the district and teachers negotiate salaries and benefits.

Often those who are opposed to Students Come First use local control as a catch all for fighting against reform and change. Remember, local control does not mean union control. Local districts, as is the practice today, will continue to implement objectives defined by the Legislature.

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